

# AKIRA

28

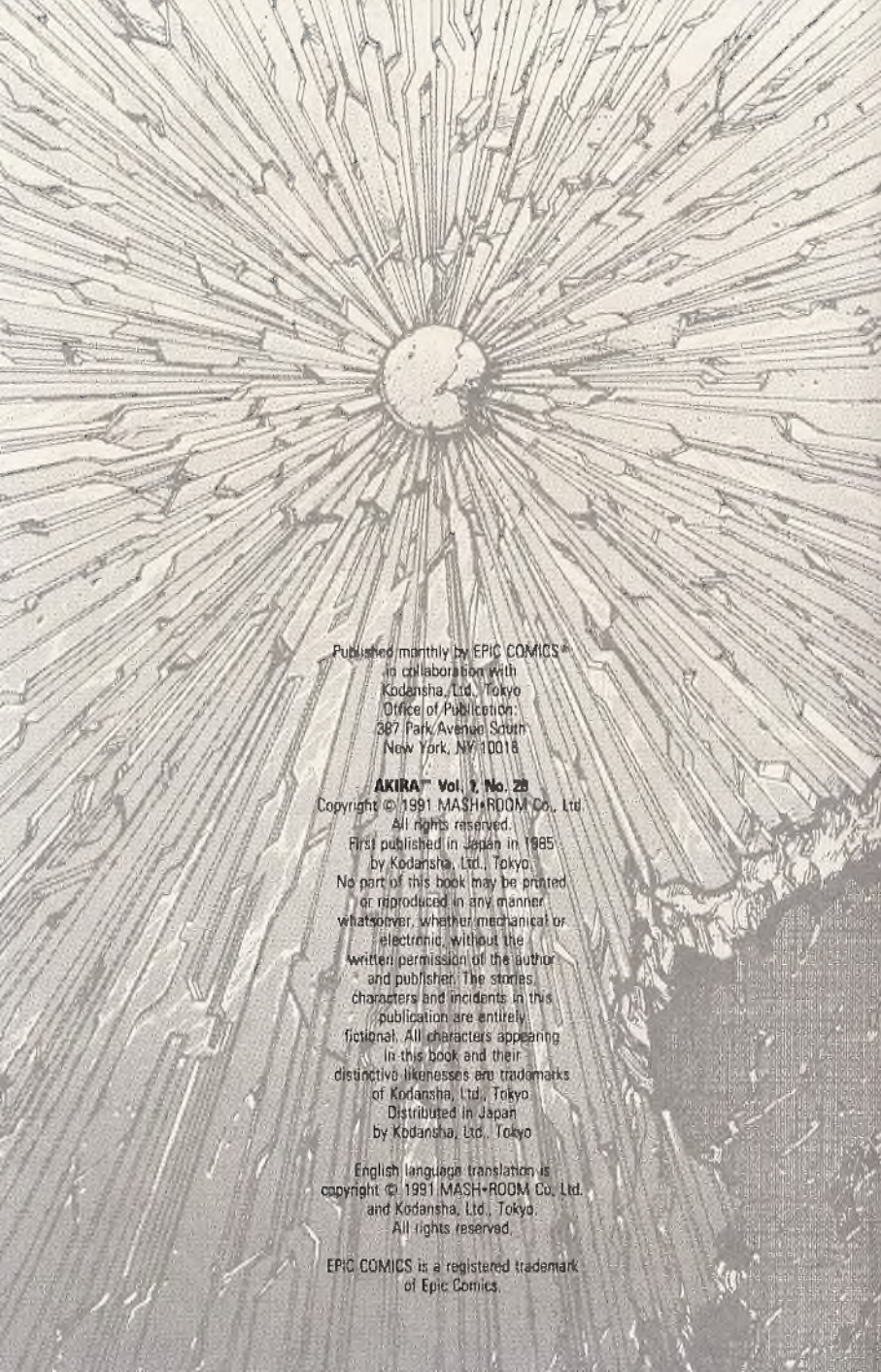
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# AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 28

**SWEPT AWAY**

## WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

**2**030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu** and **Chiyoko**.

The **Colonel** had a number of psychic children under his control. Each is identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**—Numbers 25 and 27—and the blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—who once led the resistance and now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, once Kaneda's close friend but now his greatest enemy.

**Tetsuo** was crippled by a laser blast from the military satellite SOL, which the **Colonel** controlled, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate himself a prosthetic left arm.

**Akira** is the most powerful of the children. He was placed in cryogenic sleep forty years

ago after he started the third world war with a mental blast. **Akira** was recently reawakened by the jealous and ambitious **Tetsuo**, and shortly thereafter he responded to emotional trauma by devastating **Neo-Tokyo**. A state of emergency now exists in Japan, and new powers and allegiances have arisen.

In the western part of **Neo-Tokyo**, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. To increase the Empire's power, **Tetsuo** uses drugs to develop psychic abilities in certain of his subjects.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside world. All except **Lieutenant Yamada**—who takes temporary shelter with **Ryu**—are killed. **Ryu** wants to join with and help **Yamada** but the spy decides to separate from his would-be ally and go his own way.

The **Colonel** is wounded and living in hiding. He is determined to kill **Tetsuo**, who he believes could become another **Akira**. At the same



Tetsuo



Akira



Kay



The Colonel

time, **Tetsuo** is trying to master his own weaknesses and his powers, so he can challenge Akira's awesome might. Meanwhile, **Lady Miyako** and her psychically gifted monks are caring for **Masaru** and **Kiyoko**, who are sick with withdrawal from the drug which augments and channels mental powers. They await the return of **Kaneda** and his friend, **Kai**, who are using a "caretaker robot" and a motorcycle "borrowed" from their old enemy, **Joker** of the **Clown Gang**, to transport the wounded **Kay** and **Chiyoko**. **Lady Miyako** is particularly concerned about **Kay** who is a powerful psychic medium.

Aboard an American naval vessel an international conclave of scientists assembles. They pool their knowledge of the **Akira** project, which they code-name **Juvenile-A**. Their data indicates that the effect of Akira's power is like that of the Big Bang and that the most recent blast (which was one of Tetsuo's) lacked the scope and dimension of the ones **Akira** caused.

The scientists are aghast when they learn that the U.S. government has formed an **Akira Assassination Corps**. They are even more upset by the knowledge that the young, dedicated soldiers are sure to

be slaughtered by the inconceivable might of their enemy. **Tetsuo** pays a visit to his "fan club." During a flight exercise, he destroys a plane, killing the pilot. Then, he taunts the scientists of **Juvenile-A** before disappearing in a burst of telekinetic energy which seriously injures one of them.

**Kaneda** and **Kai** safely reach Lady Miyako's shrine, where the great mystic heals **Kay**. **Joker** is outraged to find out **Kaneda** and **Kai** have totaled one of his bikes and is taking payment out of their hides. They remind him that all three have put their differences behind them to unite against **Tetsuo**.

To inspire their followers, the leaders of the **Great Tokyo Empire** hold a grand convocation, half rock concert and half religious ceremony. Outside the stadium where this occurs, **Ryu** prevents **Lt. Yamada** from firing a biochemical weapon which could destroy **Akira**...and take most of the population of **Neo-Tokyo** with him.

**Tetsuo** uses his powers to transport himself to the moon, where he creates a massive crater. In the ensuing earthbound seismic mayhem, **Ryu** is buried under a falling building.



Chiyoko



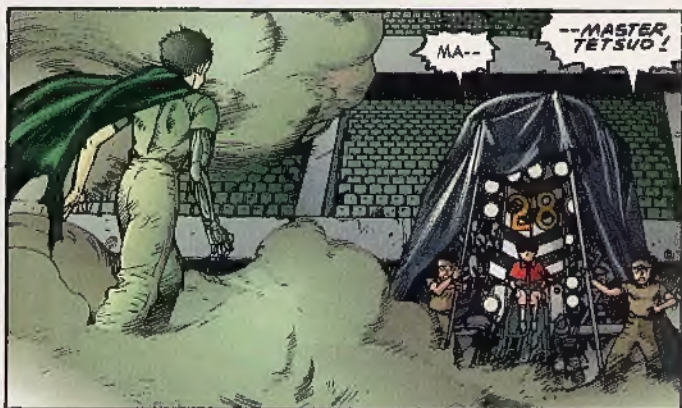
Kaori



Kai



Lt. Yamada





NUMBER 41  
HAS VIRTUALLY  
DESTROYED THE  
MOON.



HIS GROWTH HAS BEEN  
SO RAPID, WE CAN'T  
EXPECT THE PERIOD  
OF STABILITY  
TO LAST.



IT'S DANGEROUS  
TO EXPEND THAT  
MUCH ENERGY  
AT ONCE.



I DIDN'T THINK  
HE WOULD DEVELOP  
SO FAST.



WE'VE  
NO TIME TO  
LOSE.



I WISH WE COULD  
TAKE THE PRECAUTION  
OF WAITING UNTIL  
WE ARE DOUBLY  
CERTAIN...

...BUT WE  
HAVEN'T THAT  
LUXURY.



BUT KAY  
HASN'T...



YOU'RE RIGHT. WE MUST  
CONSIDER HOW ANOTHER SUCH  
RELEASE OF POWER MIGHT  
INFLUENCE AKIRA.

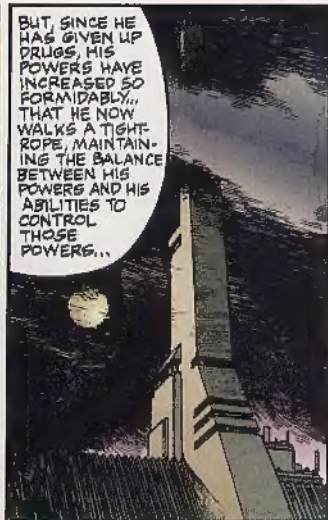


BUT, SINCE HE  
HAS GIVEN UP  
DRUGS, HIS  
POWERS HAVE  
INCREASED SO  
FORMIDABLY...  
THAT HE NOW  
WALKS A TIGHT-  
ROPE, MAINTAIN-  
ING THE BALANCE  
BETWEEN HIS  
POWERS AND HIS  
ABILITIES TO  
CONTROL  
THOSE  
POWERS...

WHILE TETSUO  
RETAINS MASTERY  
OF HIS OWN  
ABILITIES, ALL  
IS WELL...

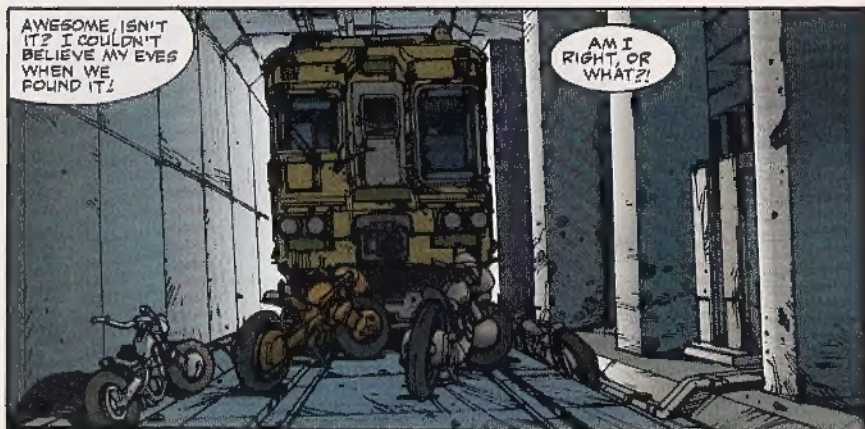


AT THIS  
TIME, HE CAN  
DEAL WITH  
WHATEVER  
ADJUST-  
MENTS ARE  
NEEDED.



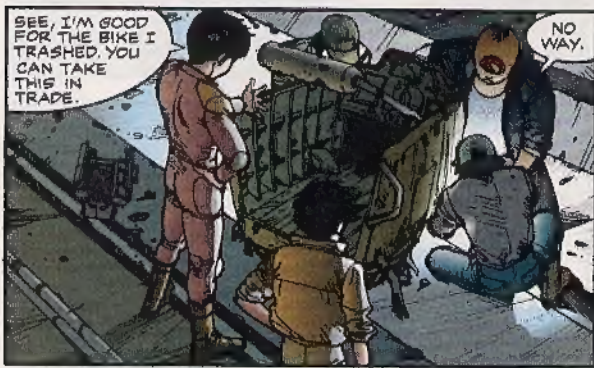
...BALANCING  
WITH A  
DELICACY  
AKIN TO  
THAT  
OF THE  
POOR,  
HALF-  
DESTROYED  
MOON.





AWESOME, ISN'T IT? I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES WHEN WE FOUND IT!

AM I RIGHT, OR WHAT?!



SEE, I'M GOOD FOR THE BIKE I TRASHED. YOU CAN TAKE THIS IN TRADE.

NO WAY.



THERE AREN'T ENOUGH WORKING PARTS TO MAKE IT USEFUL.



A BIG GUY LIKE YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED TO BE SUCH A NITPICKER!

?



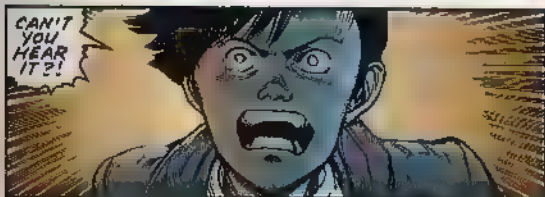
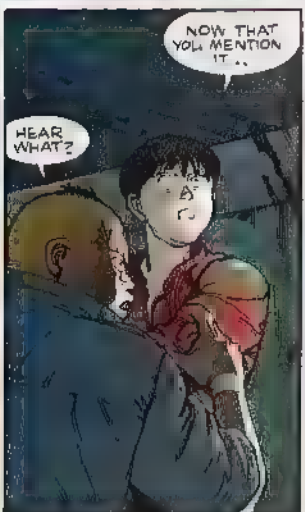
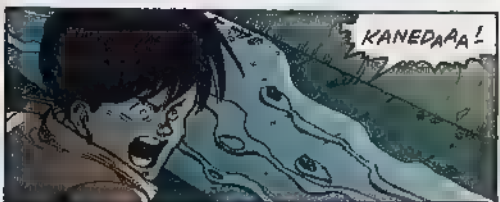
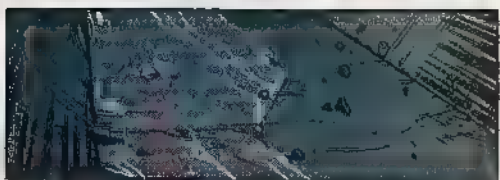
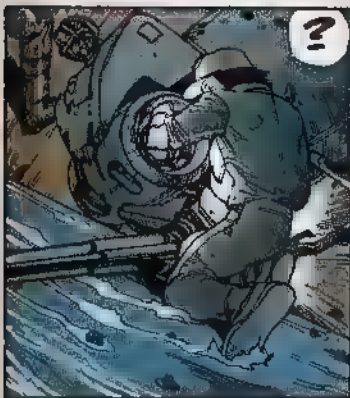
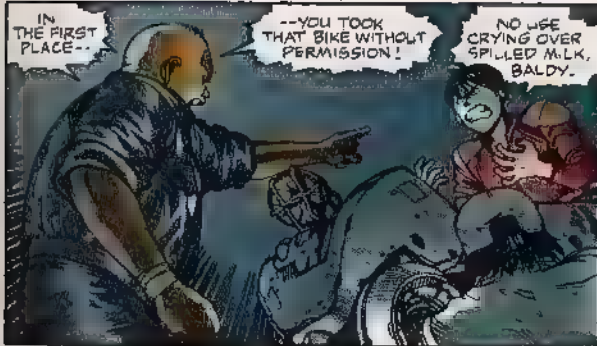
APPRAISE THIS, KANEDA!

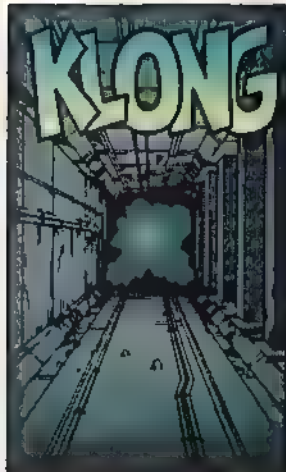
ASSHOLE!

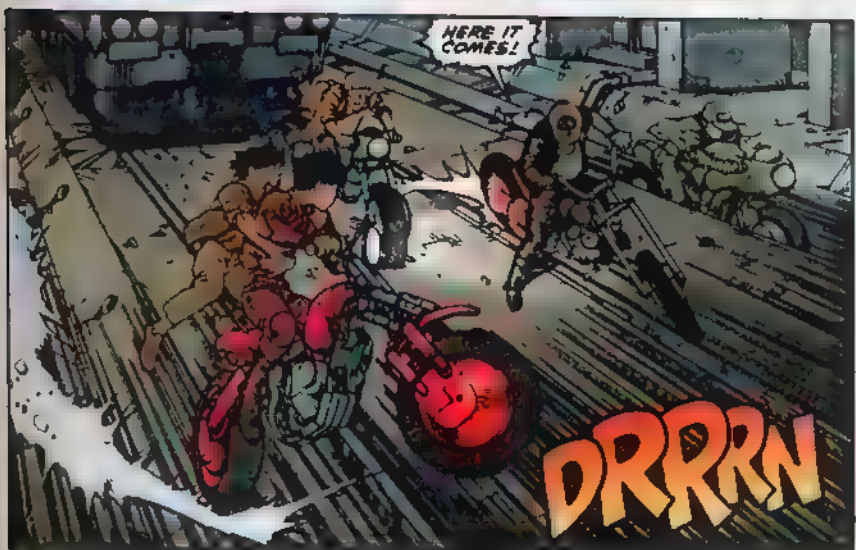
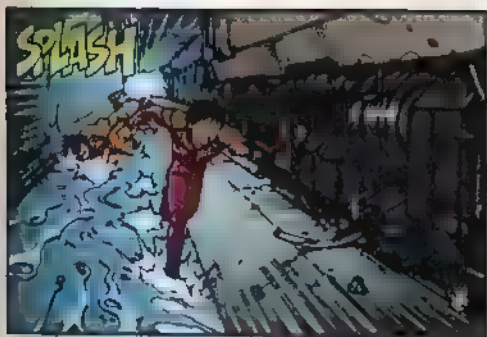


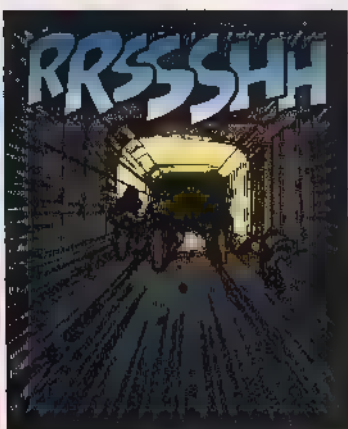
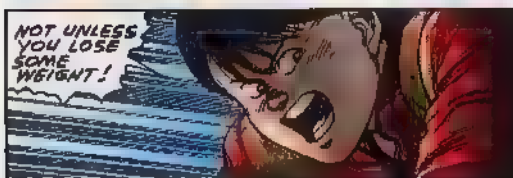
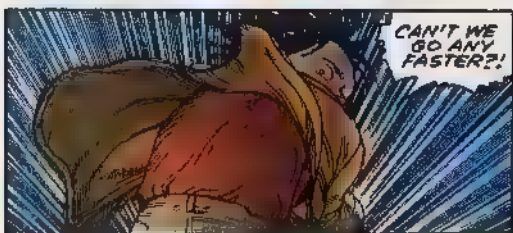
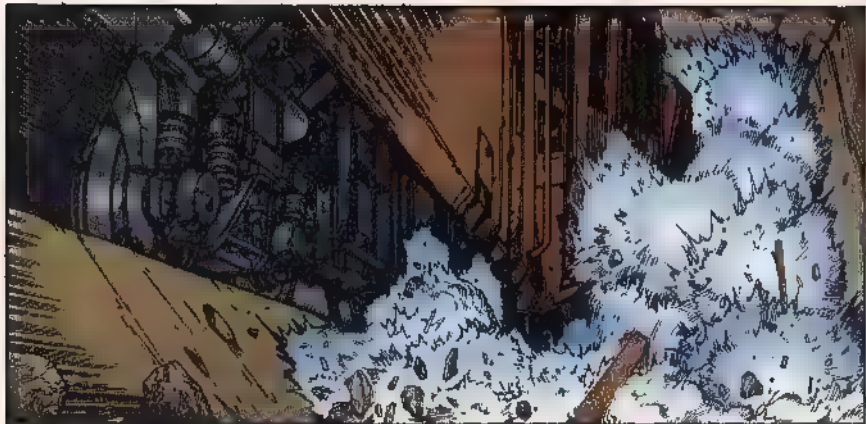
INSTEAD OF APPRAISING EVERY LITTLE DETAIL, YOU GOTTA LEARN TO LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE!

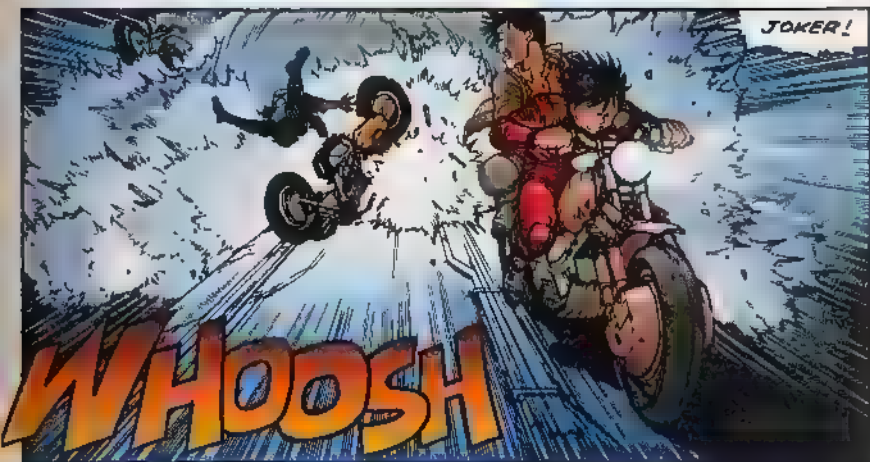
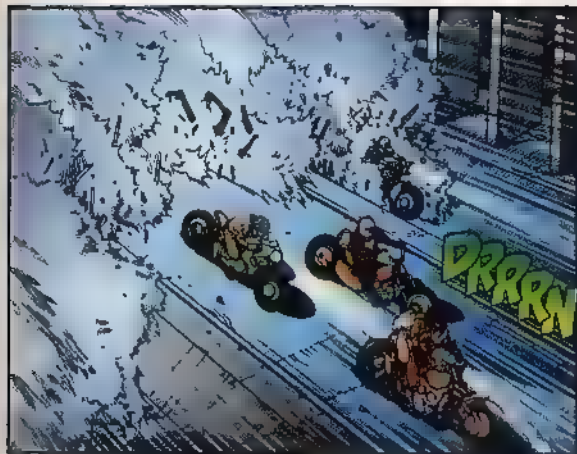
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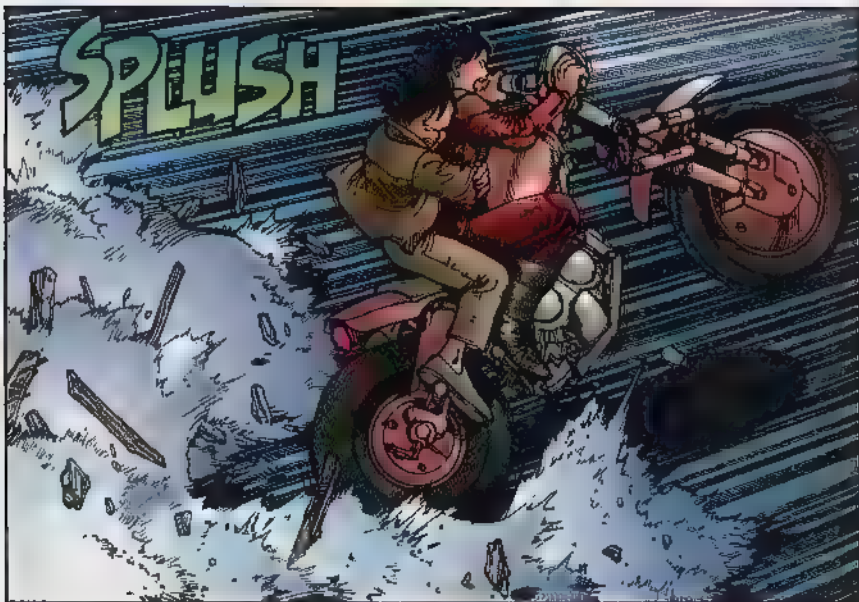




**DRRRN**

THERE'S NO  
WAY WE CAN MAKE  
IT, RIDING LIKE  
THIS.

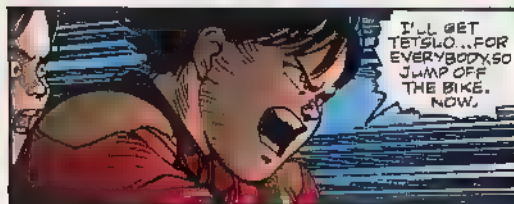
**SPLUSH**



DON'T WORRY,  
KAI. THE FUTURE'S  
SAFE IN MY  
HANDS!



I'LL GET  
TETSUO...FOR  
EVERYBODY SO  
JUMP OFF  
THE BIKE.  
NOW.

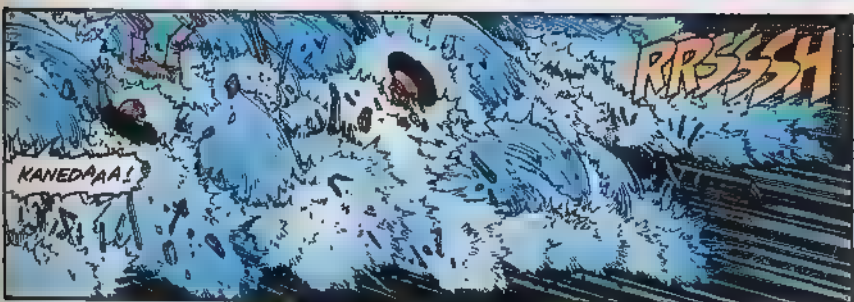
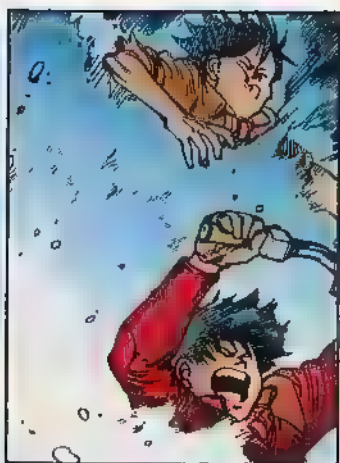
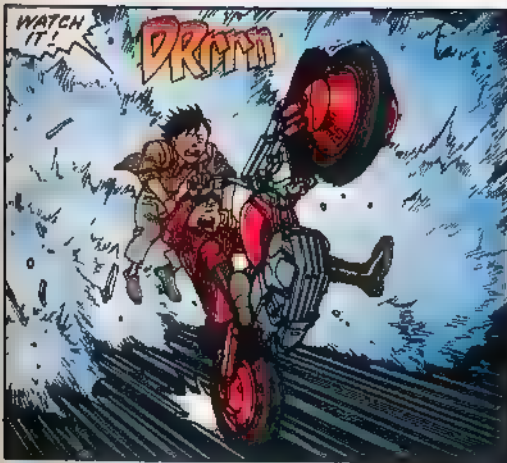


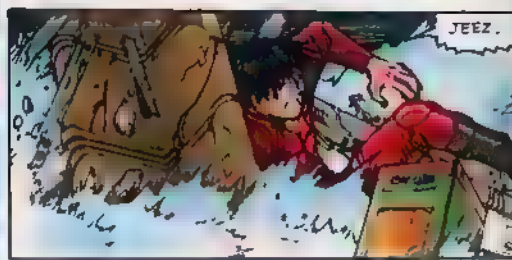
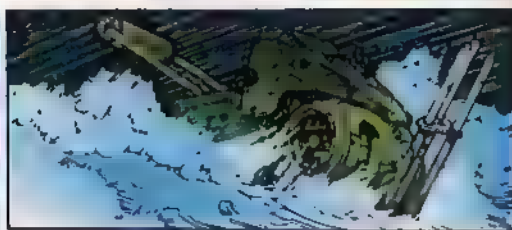
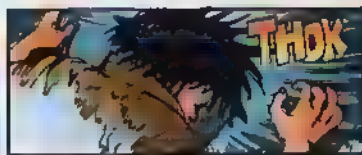
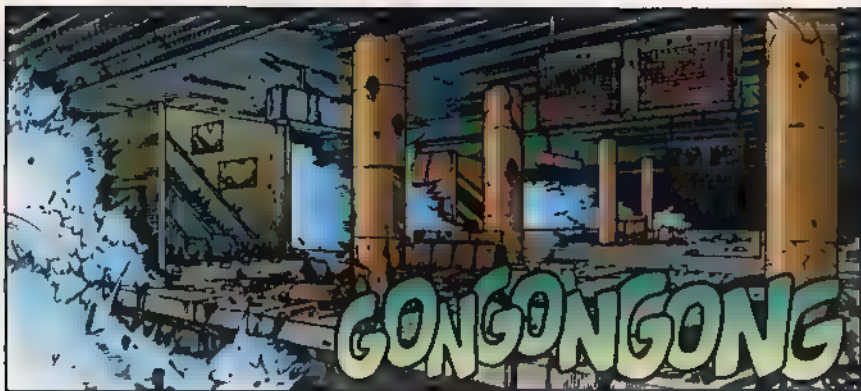
**YOU BASTARD!**

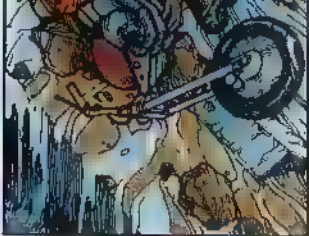
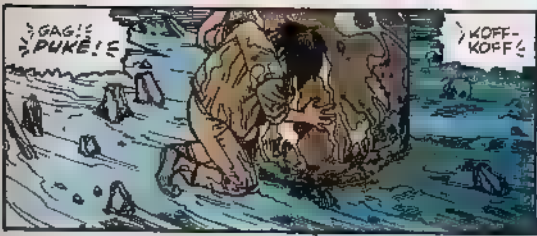
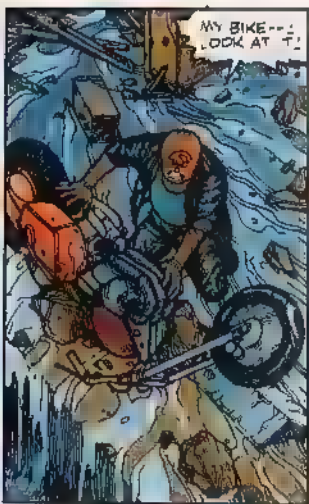
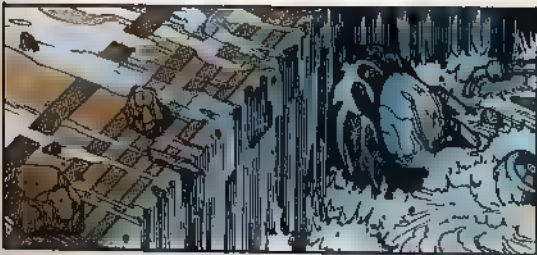
HOW CAN YOU  
THINK OF YOUR-  
SELF AT A TIME  
LIKE THIS?

**OW!!**

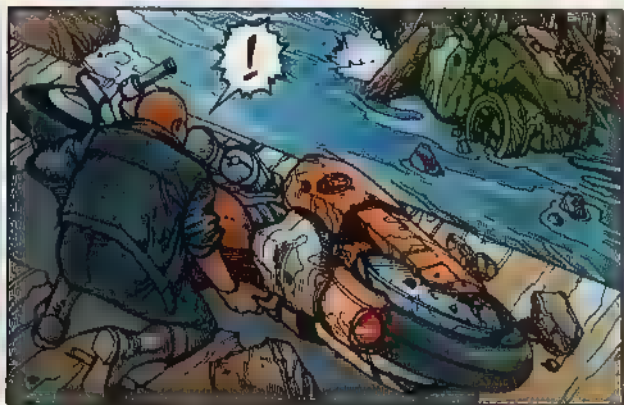


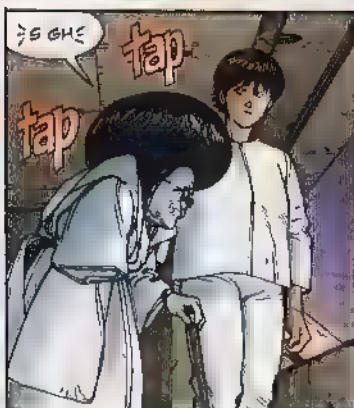
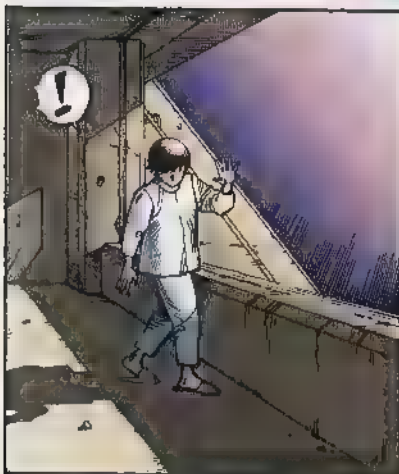




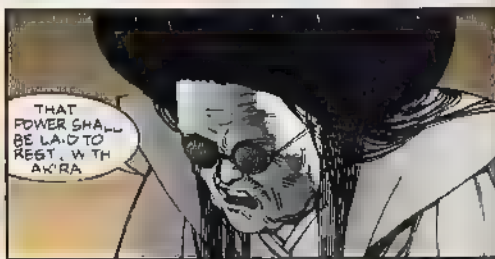
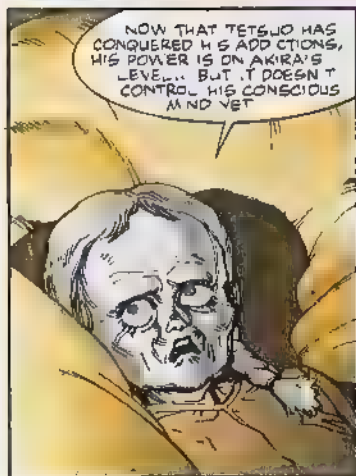
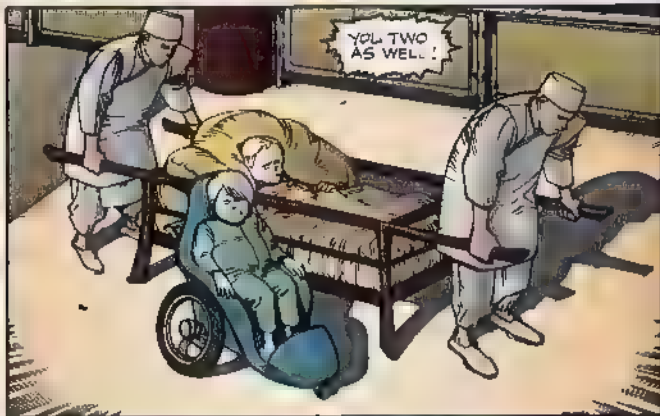
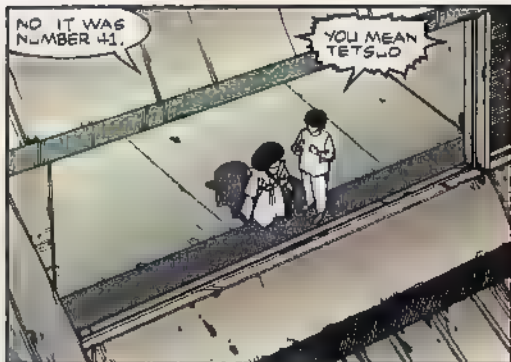


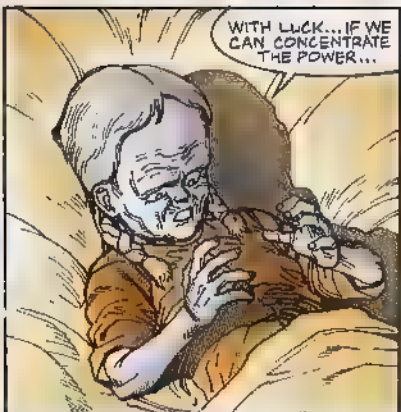
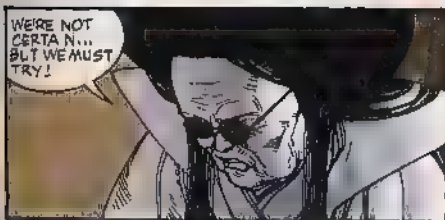
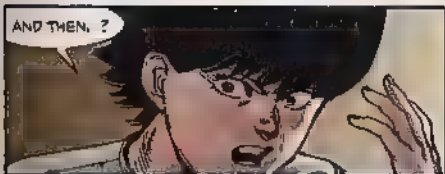
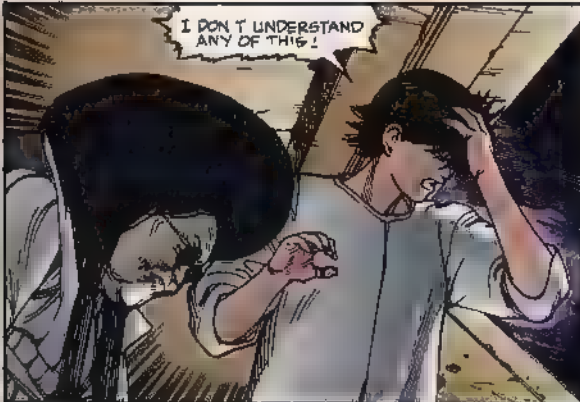
YEAH  
IT WAS ALL  
SALTY.

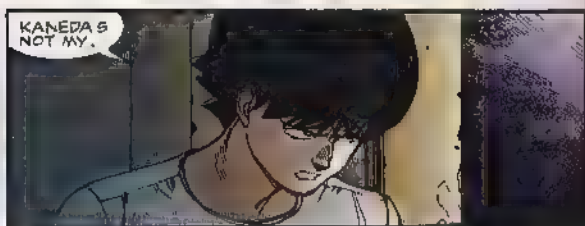
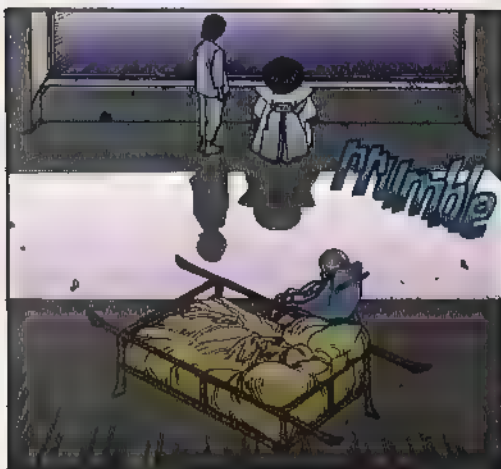






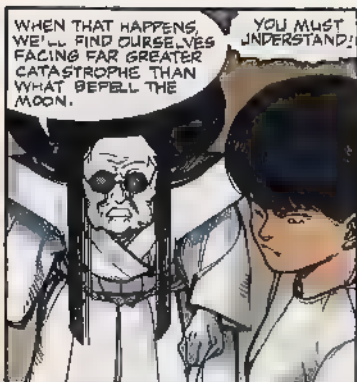








IT'S GRADUALLY CONSUMING HIM HIS EGO, HIS ENTIRE PERSONALTY.

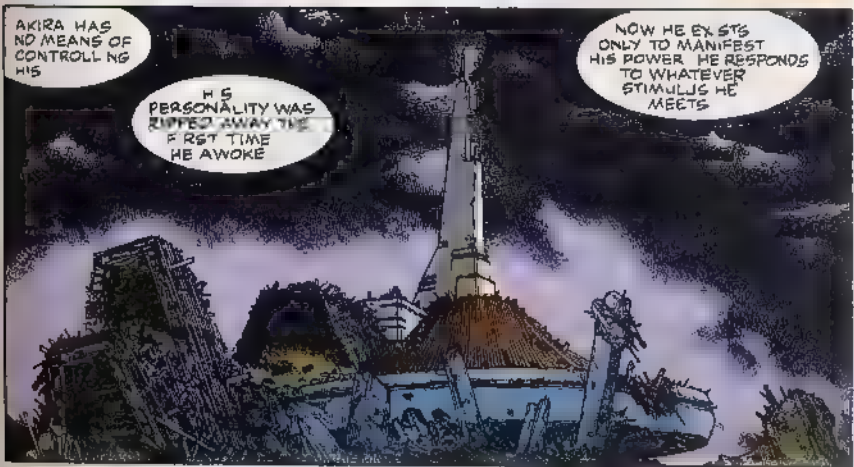


WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WE'LL FIND OURSELVES FACING FAR GREATER CATASTROPHE THAN WHAT BEFELL THE MOON.

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND!



WE ARE ABLE TO COEXIST WITH OUR POWER ONLY BY TAKING DRUGS.



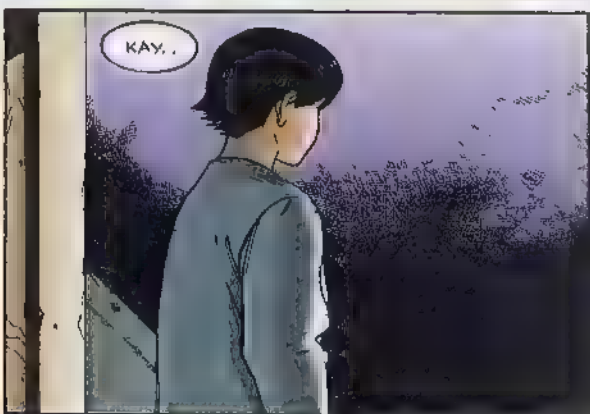
AKIRA HAS NO MEANS OF CONTROLLING HIS

HIS PERSONALITY WAS RIPPED AWAY THE FIRST TIME HE AWOKE

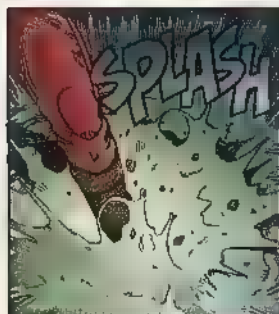
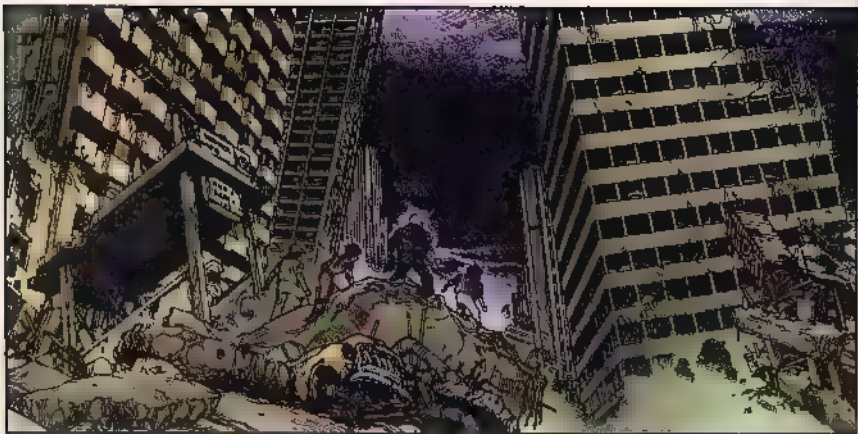
NOW HE EXISTS ONLY TO MANIFEST HIS POWER. HE RESPONDS TO WHATEVER STIMULUS HE MEETS

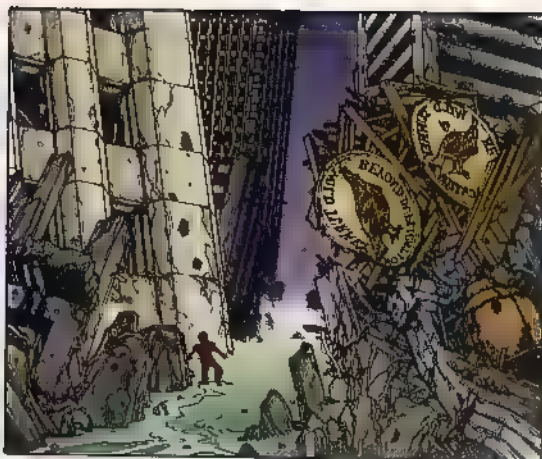
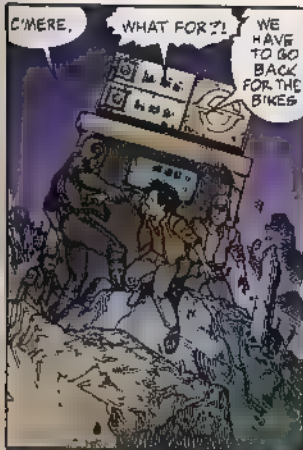


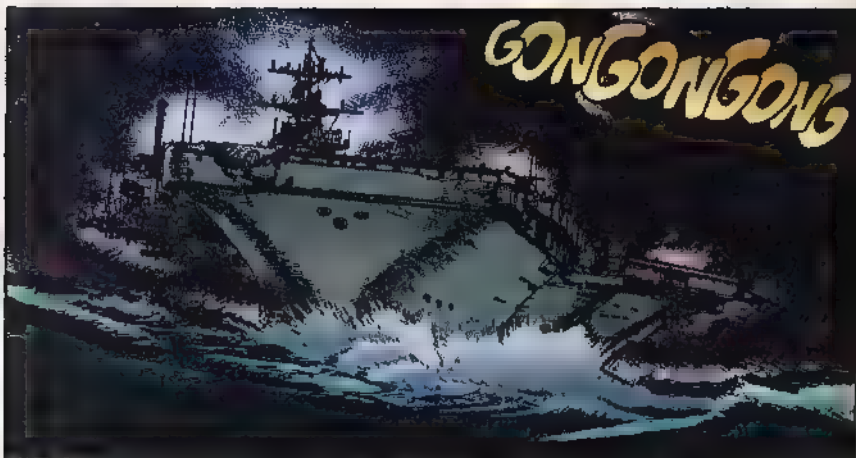
THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO--!



KAY..



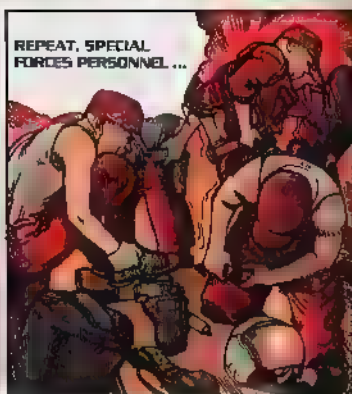




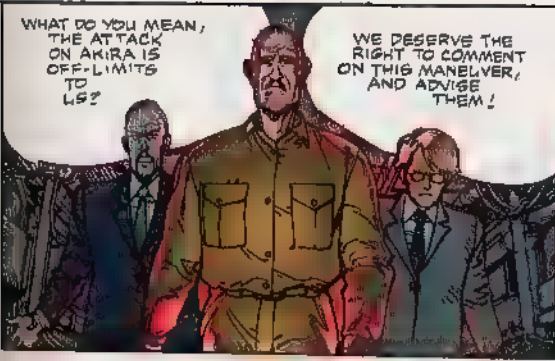
GONGGONGGONG



ATTENTION SPECIAL FORCES!  
REPORT TO THE OPERATIONS ROOM  
DRESSED FOR LEVEL FIVE COMBAT.

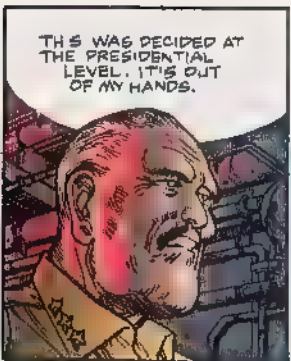


REPEAT, SPECIAL  
FORCES PERSONNEL ...




WHAT DO YOU MEAN,  
THE ATTACK  
ON AKIRA IS  
OFF-LIMITS  
TO US?


WE DESERVE THE  
RIGHT TO COMMENT  
ON THIS MANUEVER,  
AND ADVISE  
THEM!




THIS WAS DECIDED AT  
THE PRESIDENTIAL  
LEVEL. IT'S OUT  
OF MY HANDS.




WHAT ABOUT  
THE REPORTS WE  
SUBMITTED?




I UNDERSTAND THEY  
WERE GIVEN  
FULL  
CON-  
SIDERA-  
TION.



THEN LET US  
ADDRESS THE PRESIDENT  
DIRECTLY.

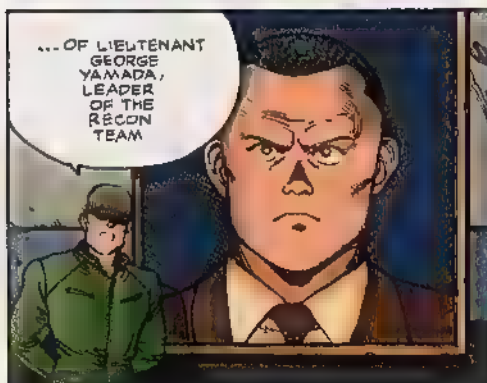
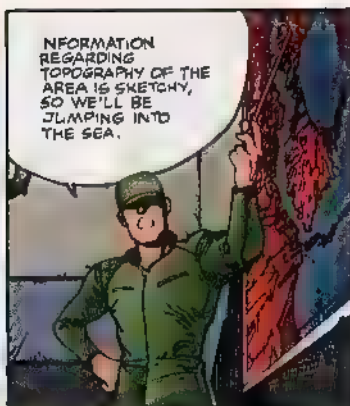


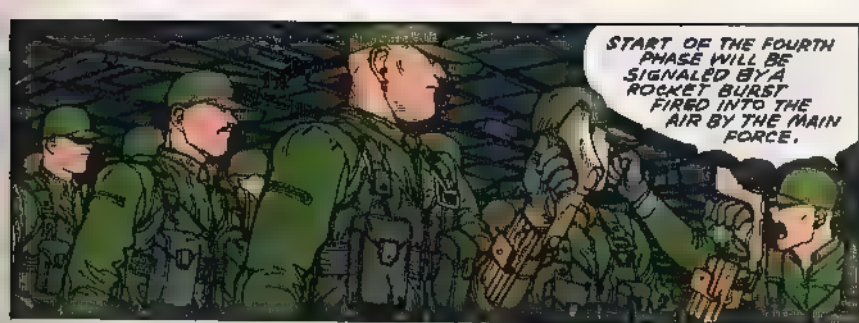
...BUT A SOLDIER'S DUTY LIES IN DOING  
WHAT MUST BE DONE, WHATEVER THE  
RISK TO HIS OWN LIFE. IF THE  
OPERATION SUCCEEDS, IT'S COMPENSA-  
TION ENOUGH FOR THE CASUALTIES

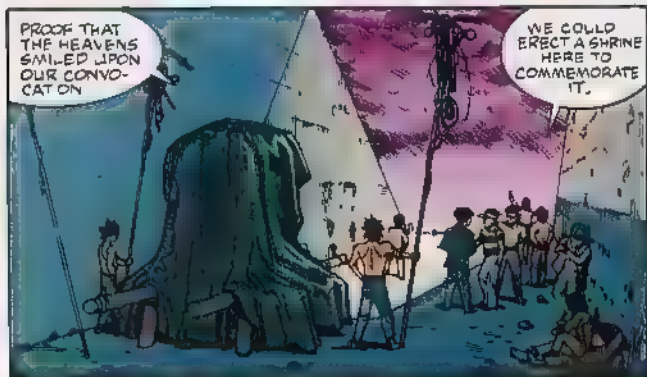
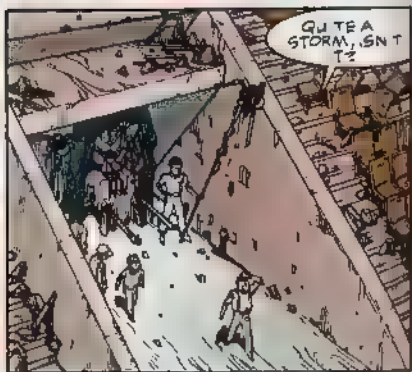


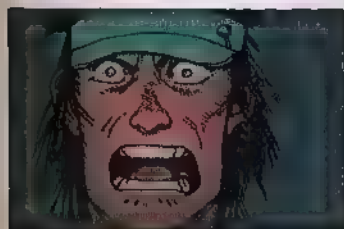
IF HE'LL ONLY  
LISTEN, WE CAN  
MINIMIZE  
THE CASUAL-  
TIES...

THANK  
YOU...

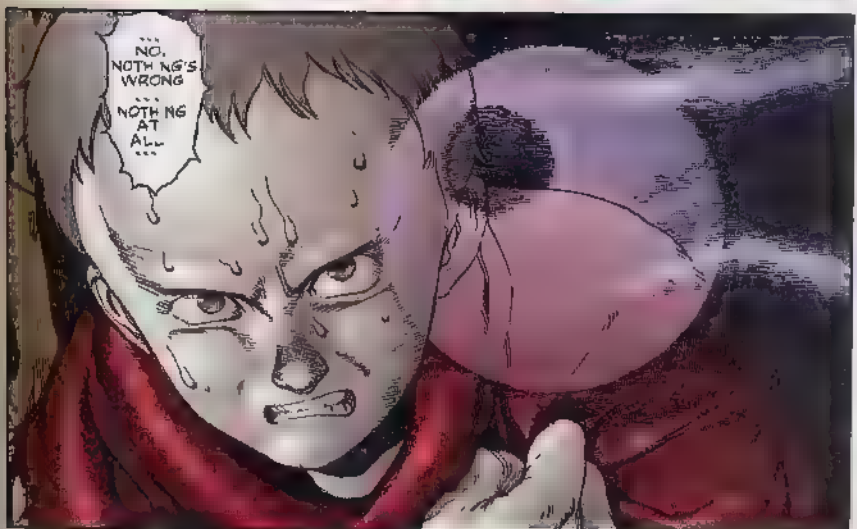
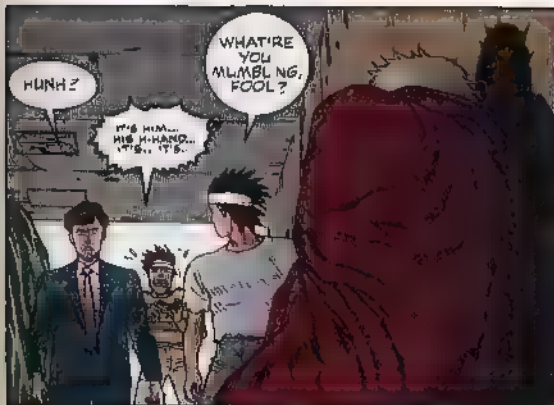


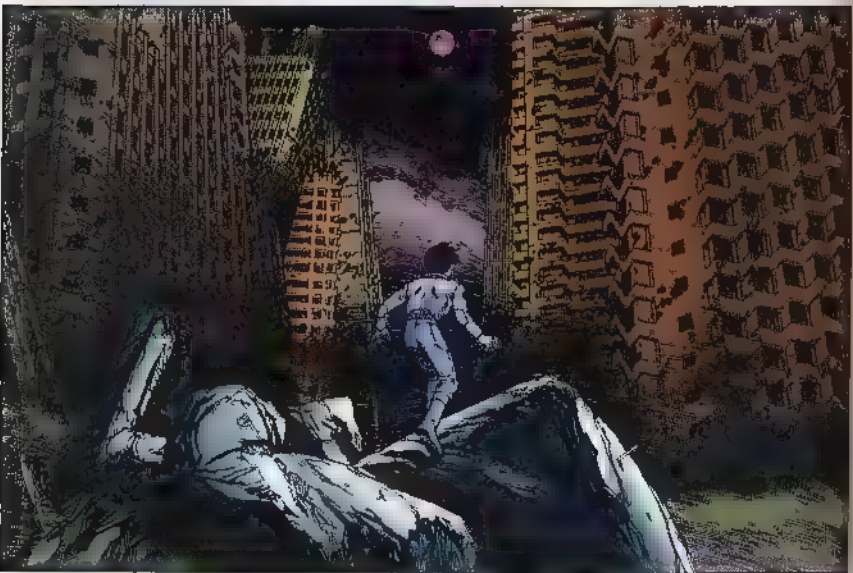


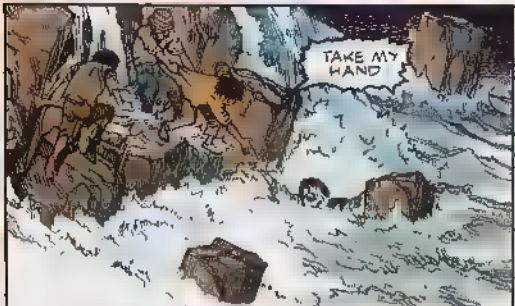
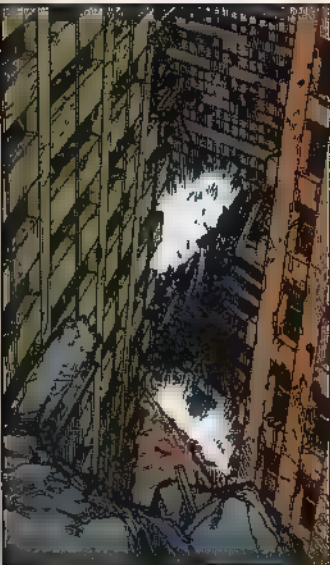
















START NOW AND  
REARRANGE THE  
ENCODING

I'LL TRY, BUT  
THE FIRST LAYER  
OF THE DEFENSES  
HAS ALREADY  
BEEN BREACHED

WE CAN STAY  
AHEAD OF THEM...  
BUT WORKING BY  
TRIAL AND ERROR,  
THEY'LL CATCH  
UP SOON

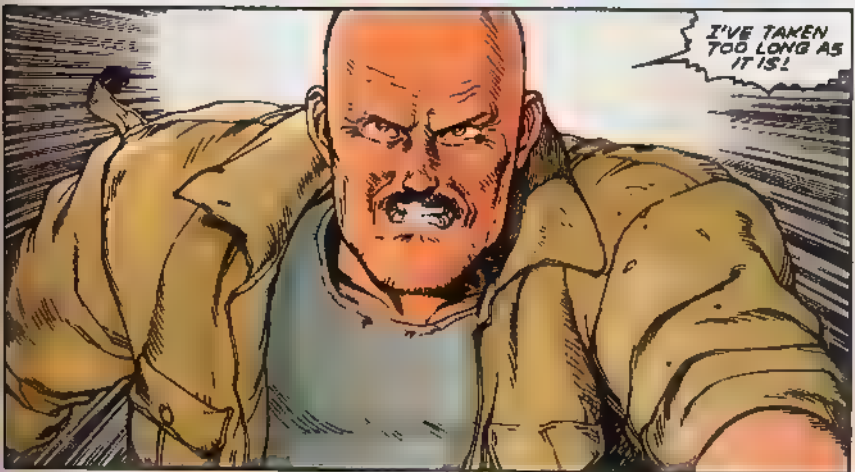
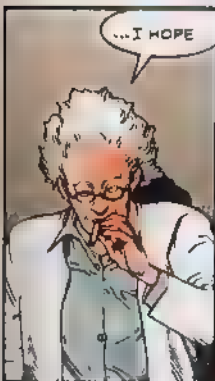
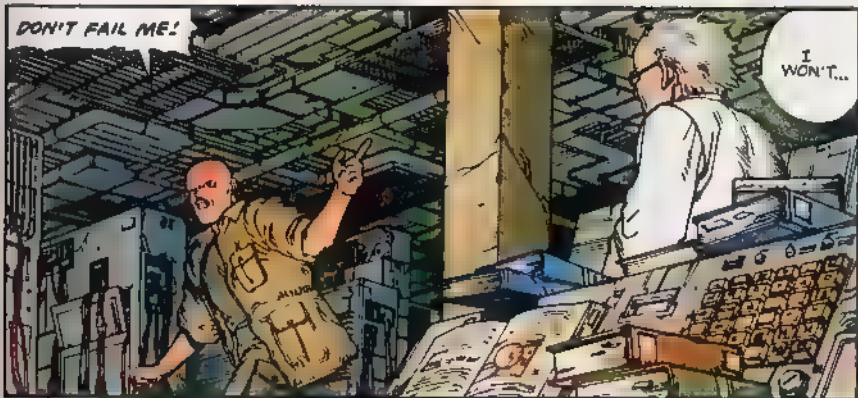
HOW SOON?

A WEEK... THREE  
DAYS... MAYBE IT'S  
JUST A MATTER OF  
HOURS

DAMN!

I THINK IF I GIVE IT  
MY ALL I CAN BUY  
US THREE DAYS.

EXCELLENT!



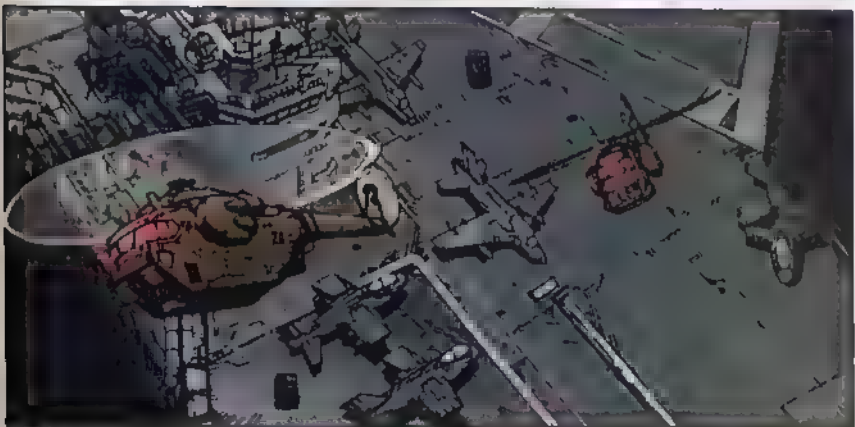
H-545, YOU ARE CLEARED FOR  
TAKEOFF.

LOOK OUT FOR WAVES  
OFF THE STARBOARD  
SIDE.

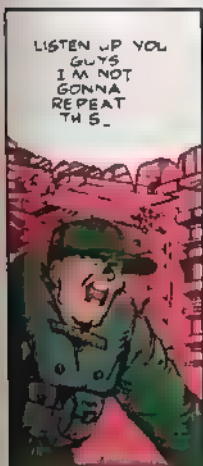
THE SECOND PLANE IS  
CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF.

ALL FLIGHT LEADERS  
PROCEED TO THE  
SECOND ELEVATOR.

AS SOON AS TAKEOFF  
PROCEDURES ARE COMPLETE, ALL  
PLANES ON DECK MUST BE  
HANGARED.

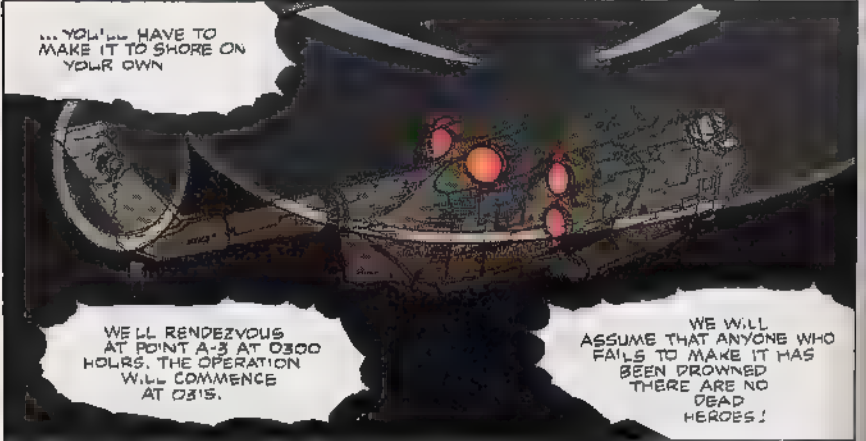


LISTEN UP YOL  
GUYS  
I'M NOT  
GONNA  
REPEAT  
TH S.



THAT'S A CHOPPY SEA  
OUT THERE WITH  
A HIGH WIND  
SO IF YOU  
CAN'T REACH  
A BOAT ONCE  
WE HIT  
THE  
WATER...





... YOU'LL HAVE TO  
MAKE IT TO SHORE ON  
YOUR OWN

WE'LL RENDEZVOUS  
AT POINT A-3 AT 0300  
HOURS. THE OPERATION  
WILL COMMENCE  
AT 0315.

WE WILL  
ASSUME THAT ANYONE WHO  
FAILS TO MAKE IT HAS  
BEEN DROWNED  
THERE ARE NO  
DEAD  
HEROES!

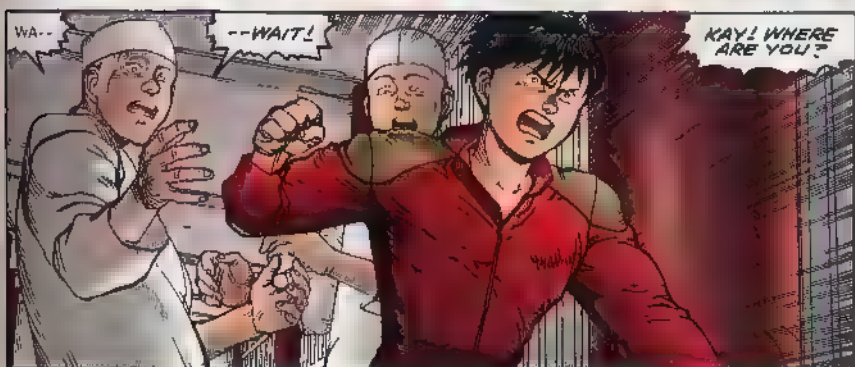
UNDERSTAND?

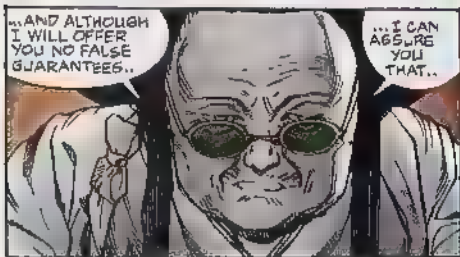
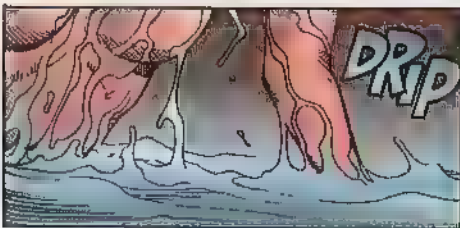
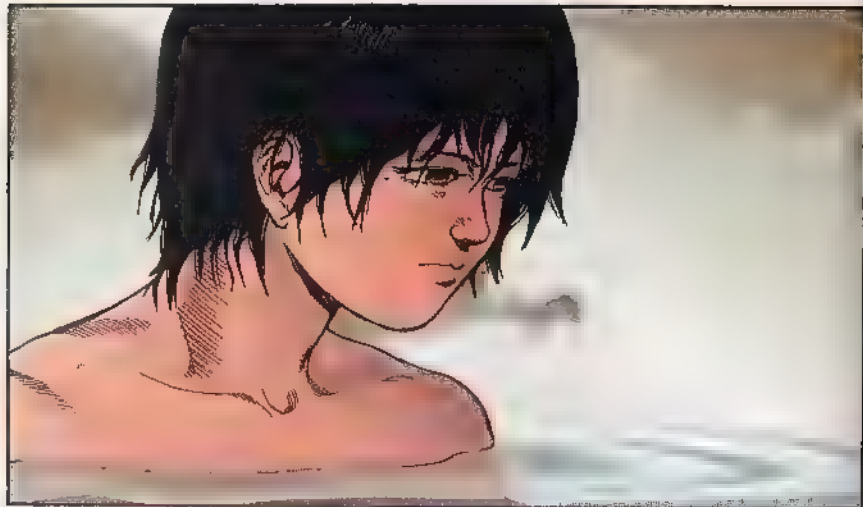
AYE-AYE, SIR!

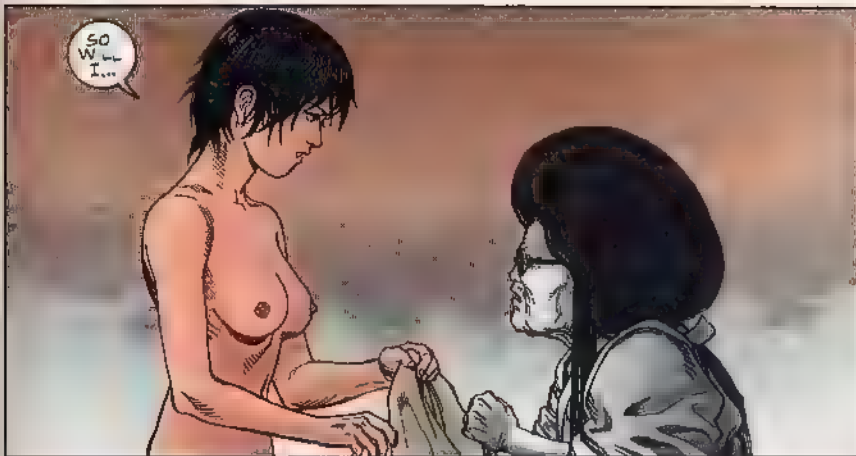


GONGGONG









THE PURIFICATION  
IS ONLY A  
FORMALITY

IT'S A  
SYMBOL T  
DEMONSTRATES  
HER DESIRE TO  
CONCENTRATE  
AND FOCUS ON  
OUR TASK

I THINK SHE  
NEEDS  
THAT.

I DON'T  
EXPECT YOU  
TO BE  
HERE  
YET

LOOK

AS YOU CAN SEE,  
ALL IS WELL WTH  
KAY. NOTHING TO  
BE CONCERNED  
ABOUT

THE  
NEXT  
STEP  
IS TO  
MAKE A  
PLACE

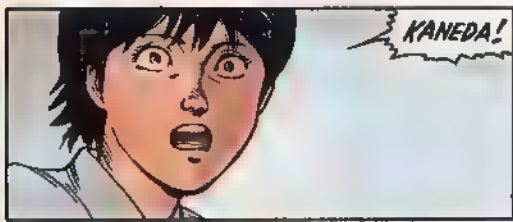
KAY!



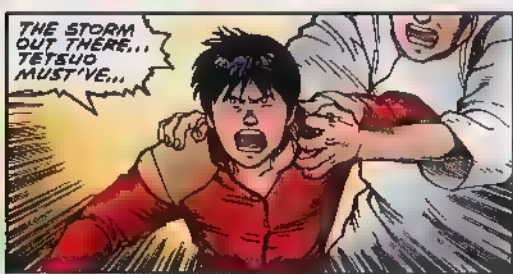
STOP RIGHT THERE!

WHAT ARE YOU--?

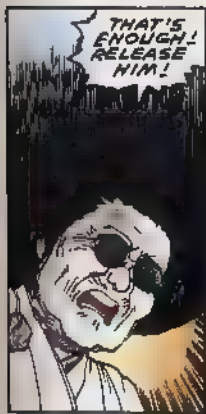
SHUT UP!



KANEDA!



THE STORM  
OUT THERE...  
TETSUO  
MUST'VE...



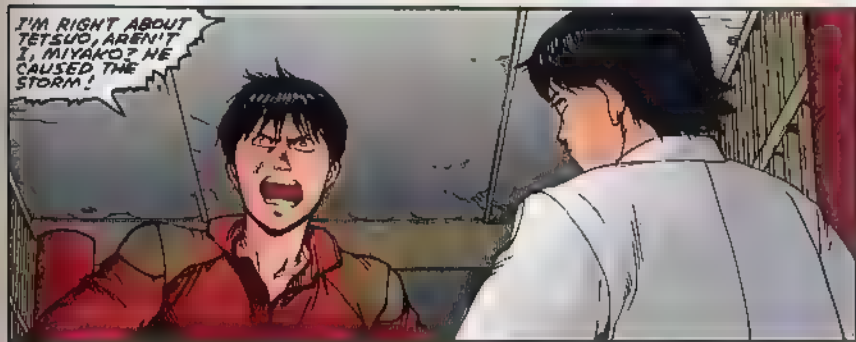
THAT'S  
ENOUGH!  
RELEASE  
HIM!



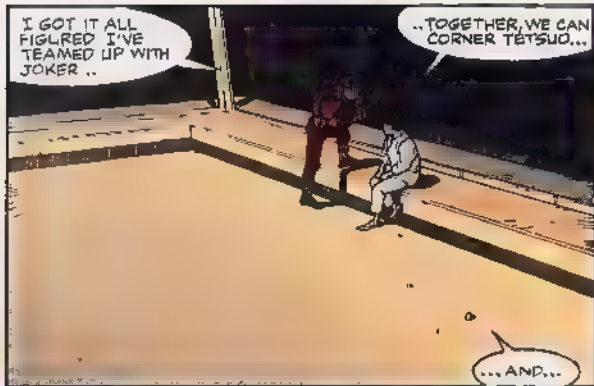
YOU HEARD  
HER,  
SCUMBAG!  
HANDS  
OFF!



KANEDA...



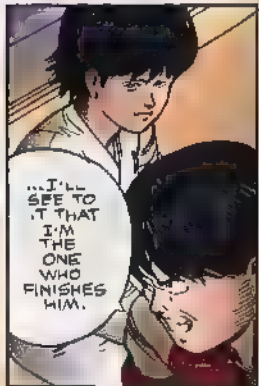
I'M RIGHT ABOUT  
TETSUO, AREN'T  
I, MIYAKO? HE  
CAUSED THE  
STORM!



I GOT IT ALL FIGURED I'VE TEAMED UP WITH JOKER ...

...TOGETHER, WE CAN CORNER TETSUO...

...AND...



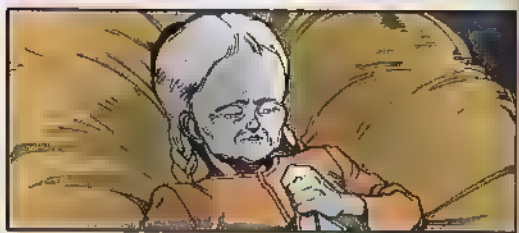
...I'LL SEE TO IT THAT I'M THE ONE WHO FINISHES HIM.



IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR THEM TO BE ALONE TOGETHER?



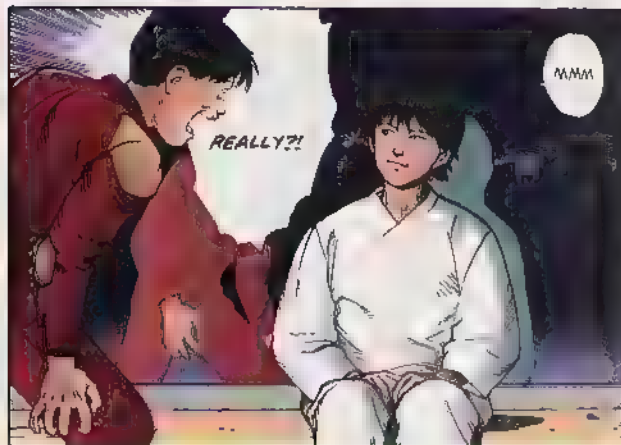
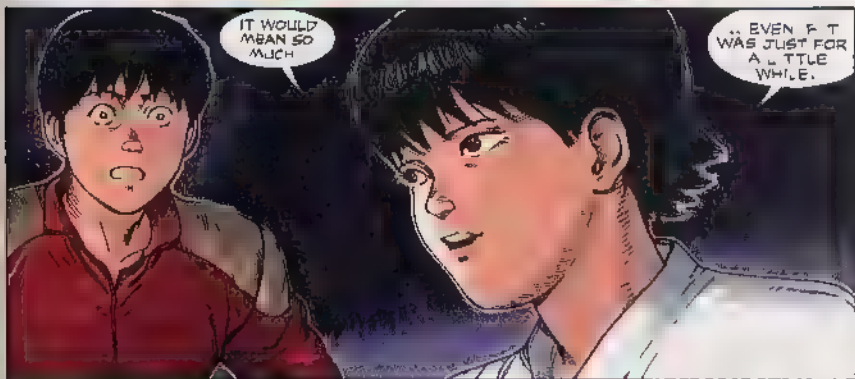
WE MAY RELY ON KAY'S STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

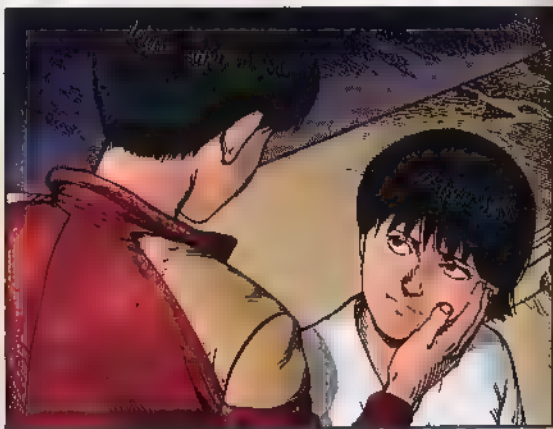
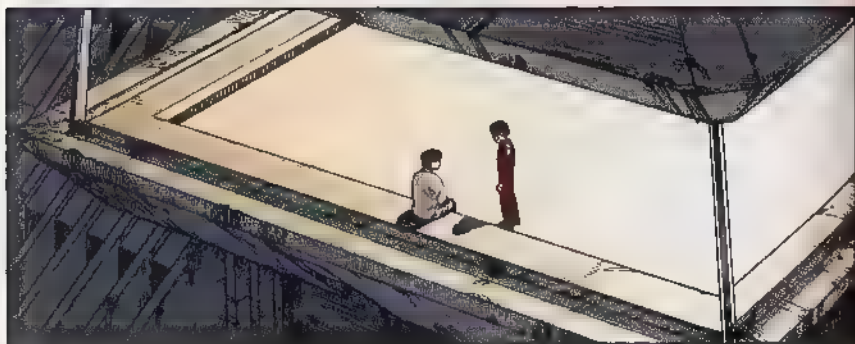
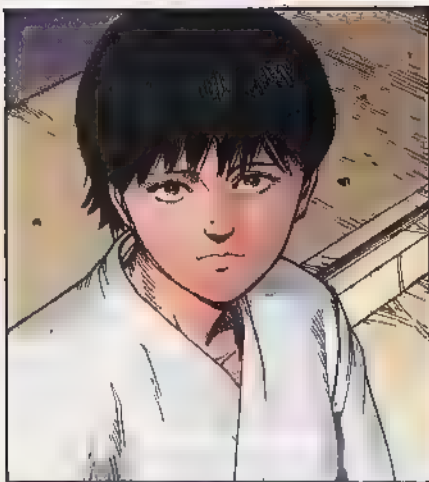


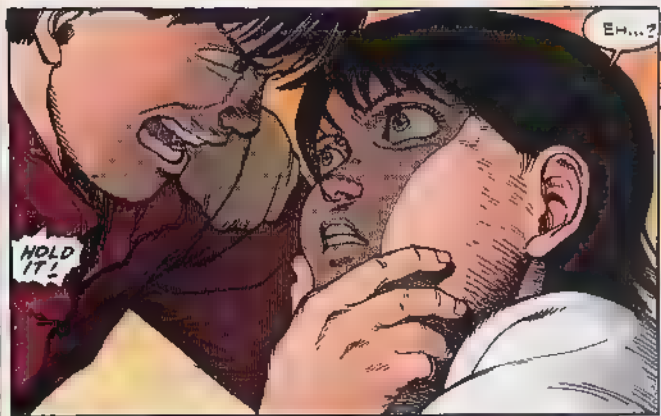
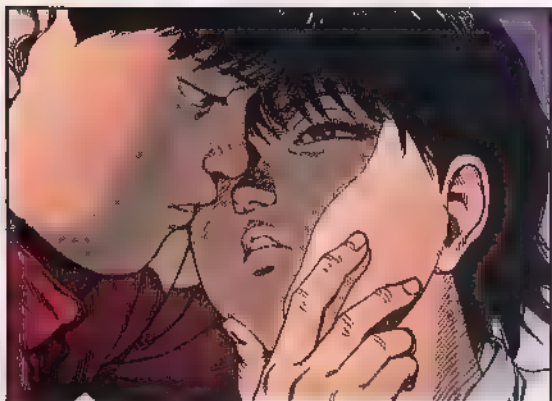
WHAT N--?

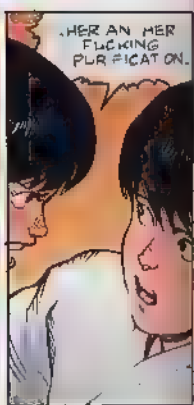
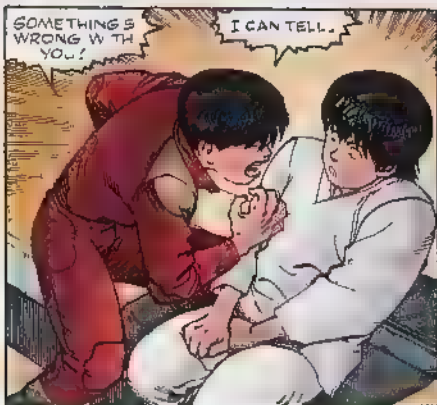
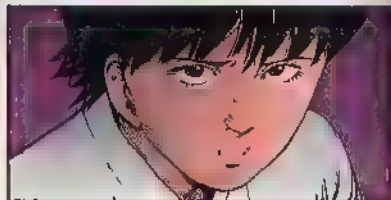
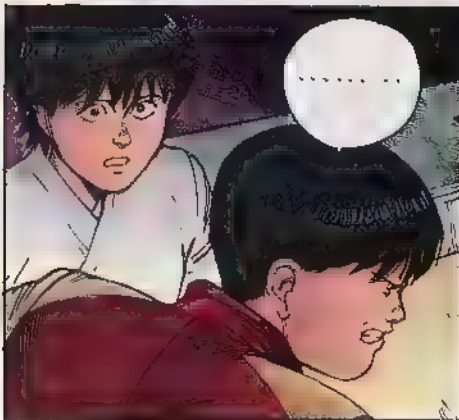
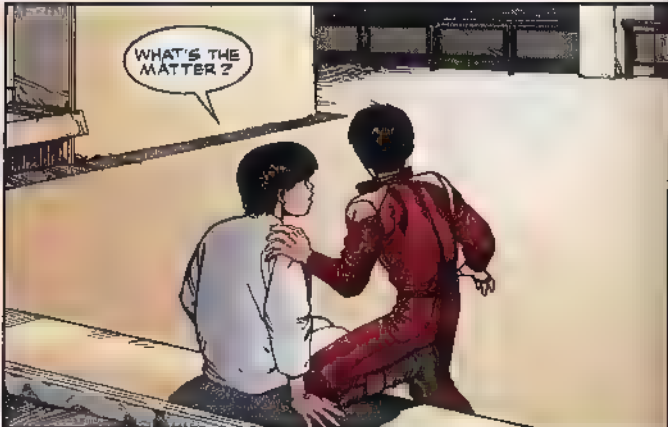
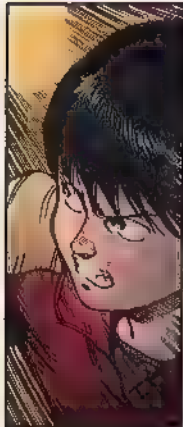


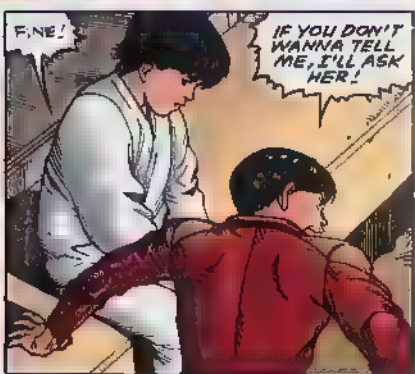
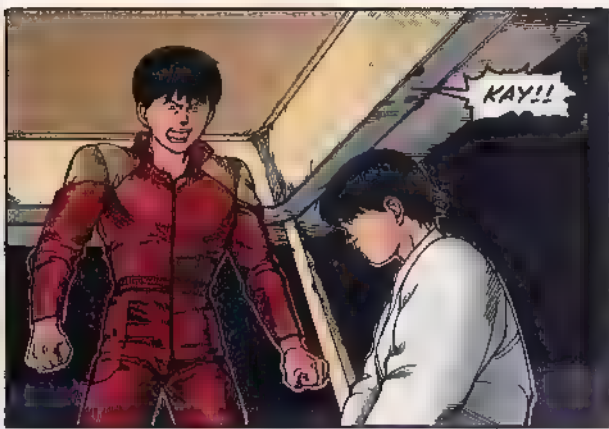
WHERE'D EVERYONE GO?

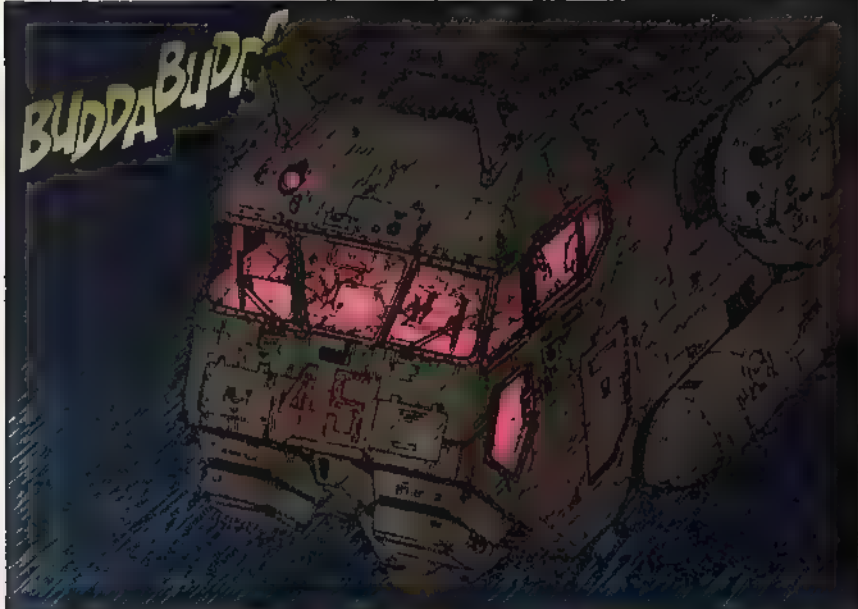




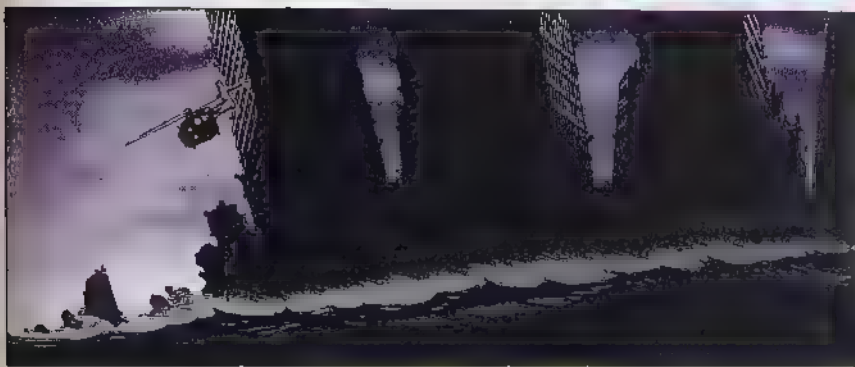
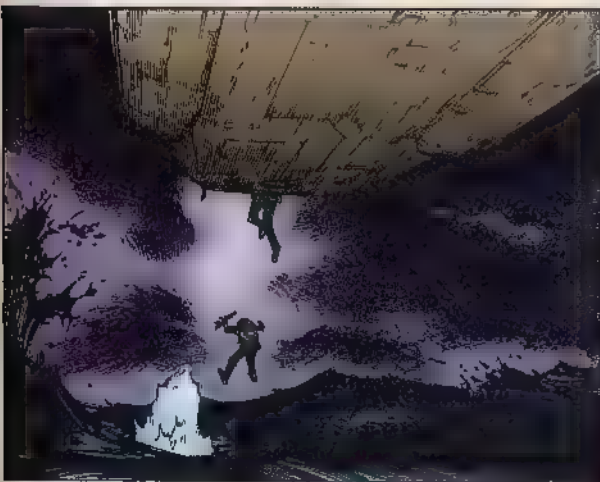


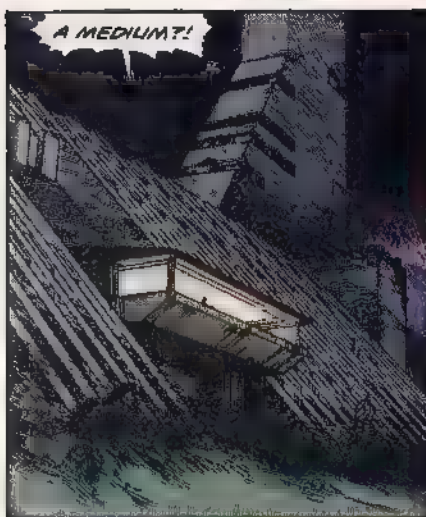






GO!





A MEDIUM?!



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY I AM... WHY THEY NEED ME



I CAN WIELD THEIR POWER FOR THEM... ALL THREE OF THEM AT ONCE, CHANNELLED THROUGH MY BODY..

"SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO FACE TETSUO

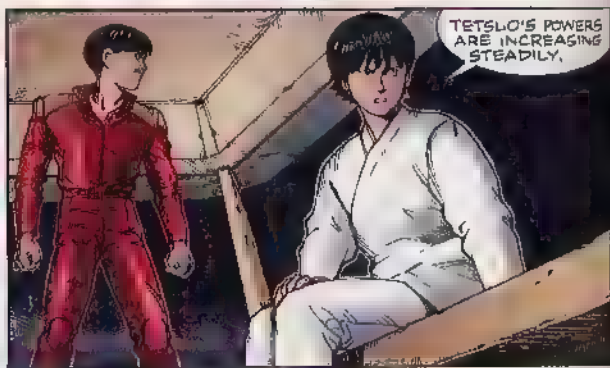


FACE... YOU MEAN FIGHT HIM?

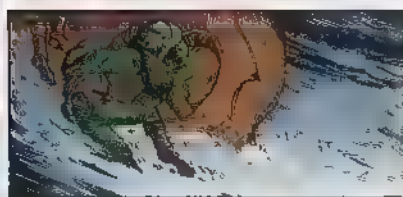
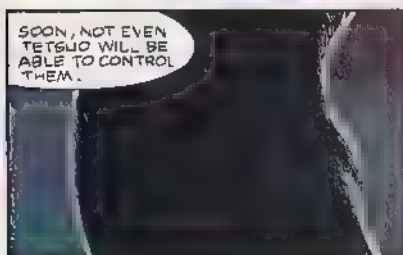
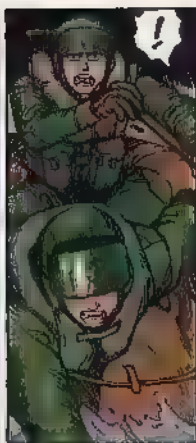
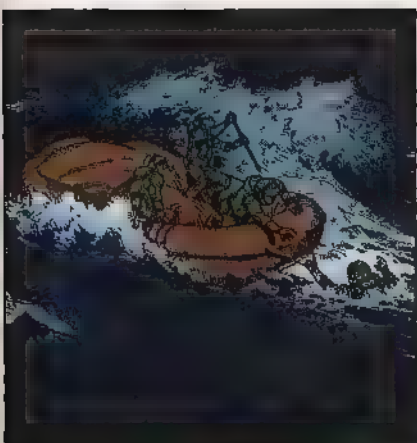
AN' WHAT THE HELL WILL HAPPEN TO YOU?!

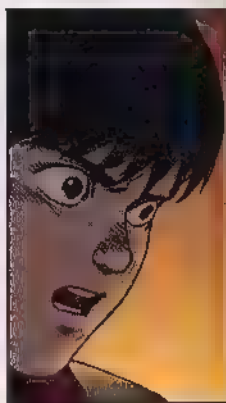
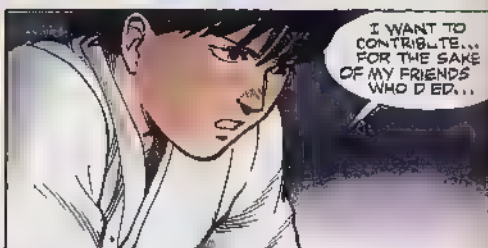
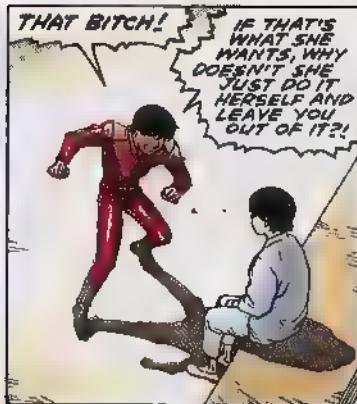


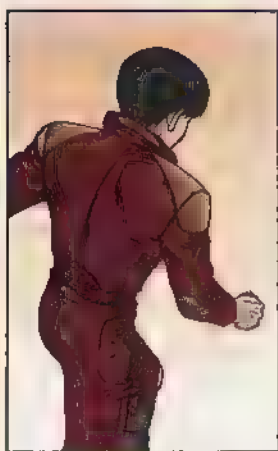
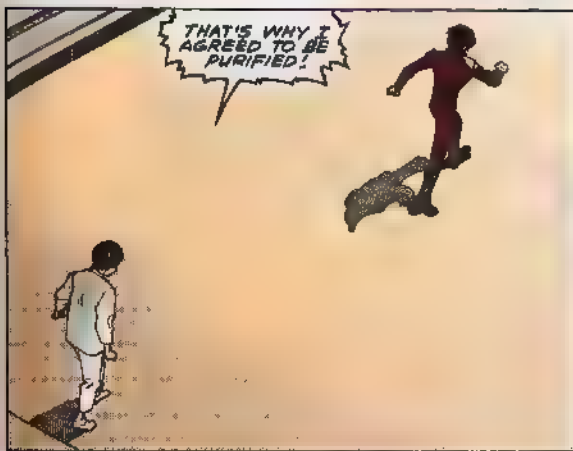
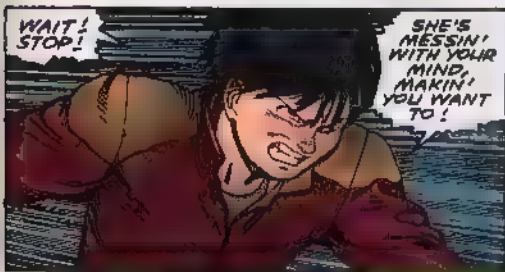
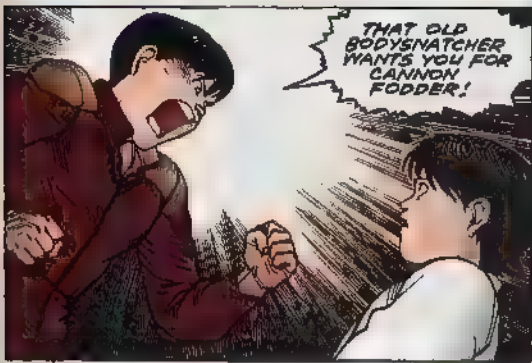
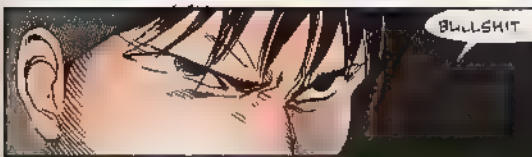
LOOK AT THE STORM.

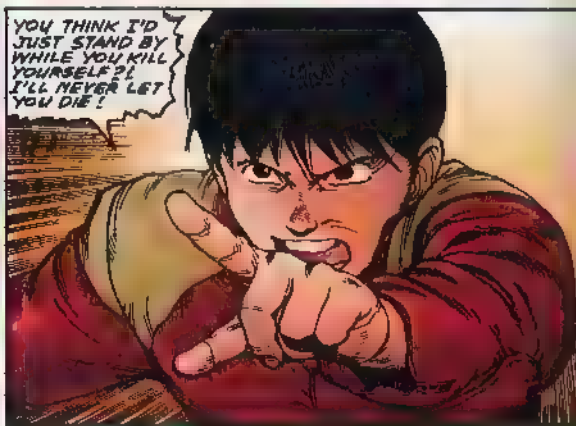
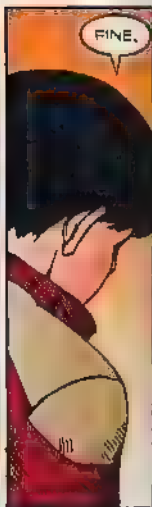


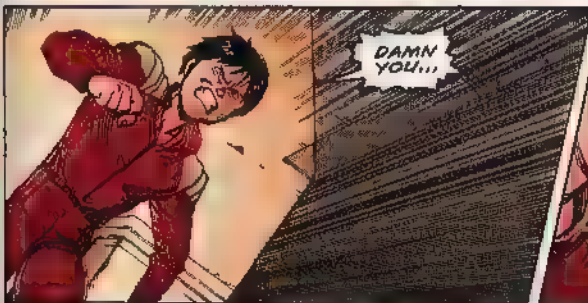
TETSUO'S POWERS ARE INCREASING STEADILY.

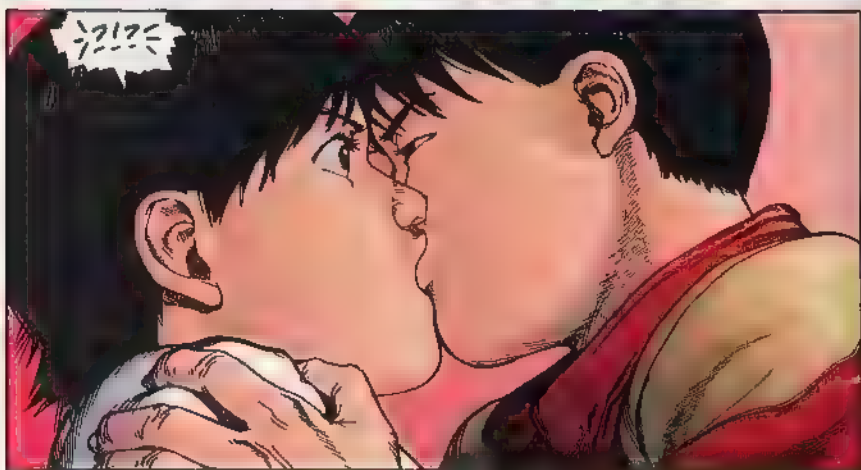
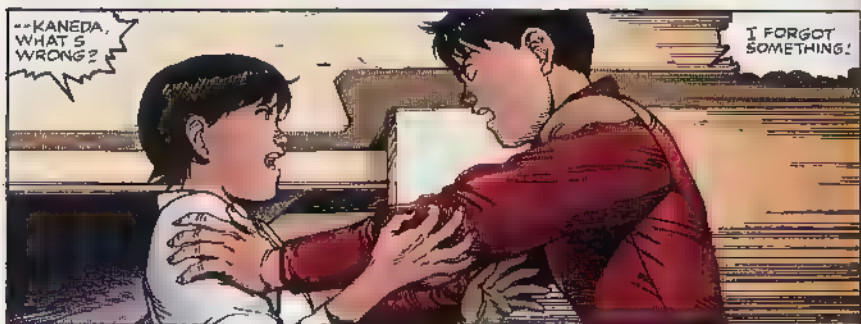
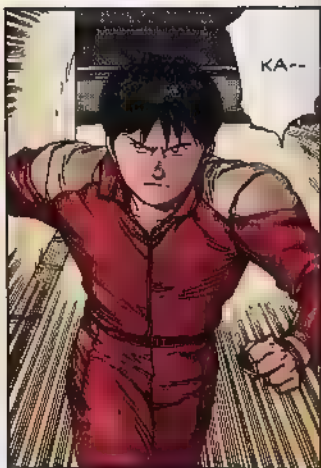




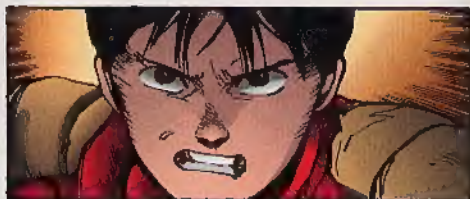












NEXT ISSUE: **RIDE TO REVENGE**

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**A** boy called Tetsuo telekinetically punches a quarter mile hole in the moon, wreaking havoc on a cosmic scale. Joker and his motorcycle gang race their bikes to outrun a vicious tidal wave — in the city's subway tunnels. Young lovers Kay and Kaneda share a gentle first kiss before setting off for the violent overthrow of a ruthless dictator. And nameless special forces troops dive into icy waters in a desperate last ditch assault to preserve life as we know it on the planet we call Earth.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

